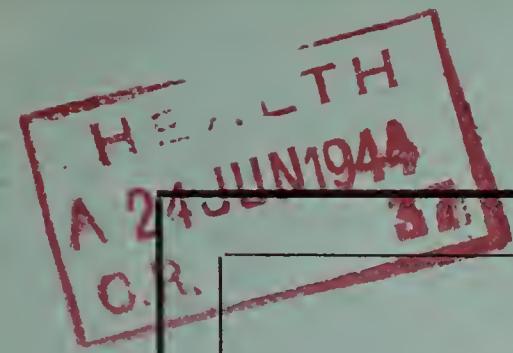


LIBRARY



Spalding
Rural District Council

REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Year 1942

"Free Press" Co., Ltd., Spalding.

SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : Mr. W. DRING, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. W. D. COOK.

Members of Council :

Mr. I. Hodson,
Mr. F. Earl,
Mr. B. Thorpe,
Mr. J. Waterfall,
Mr. R. M. Fletcher,
Mr. C. Ostler,
Mr. F. Parkinson,
Mr. T. W. Leverton,
Rev. E. C. Gee,
Mr. A. Moon,
Mr. A. E. Chappell,
Mr. T. F. Richardson,
Rev. H. H. Stainsby,
Mr. A. Rhodes,
Mr. F. Richardson,
Mr. H. E. Clarke,
Mr. T. Clark,
Mr. A. Cope,
Mr. A. C. Casswell,
Mr. W. F. Mews,
Mr. E. J. Slator, J.P.,
Mr. J. G. Litherland,
Mr. W. A. Fovargue,
Dr. F. Husband-Clutton, J.P.,
Mr. M. R. Riddington.

Medical Officer of Health :

Until April—C. W. DIXON, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), D.L.O., D.C.H.,
D.P.H.

From April—I. M. CULLUM, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H., D.C.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector :

F. LUKER, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., Insp. Meat and other Foods.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30121784>

Spalding Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
7, The Crescent,
Spalding.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1942.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SPALDING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,—

I present herewith my report for 1942, which has been curtailed as much as possible to conform with paper restrictions.

The usual statistical information is given.

On previous occasions your attention has been drawn to the magnitude of the housing problem in this area. During the year under review, conditions became increasingly difficult and several cases of overcrowding and other insanitary conditions came to the notice of the Health Department.

The year 1942 saw the introduction of children's harvest camps, which were mostly housed in school premises, more or less suitable for the purpose. Their presence served to underline the unsatisfactory conditions in many of the village schools.

The first milk pasteurising plant to be erected in the area was installed during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. M. CULLUM.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the District is 87,758 acres.

The resident population is 17,670.

The average population figure given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates is 17,740.

The number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books is 5,191. They are distributed as follows :

Cowbit	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Moulton	...	...	...	...	...	...	717
Weston	...	...	...	...	...	...	334
Pinchbeck	...	...	...	...	...	...	987
Deeping St. Nicholas	...	...	...	...	...	...	449
Surfleet	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Gosberton	...	...	...	...	...	...	638
Quadrинг	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
Donington	...	...	...	...	...	...	528
Crowland	...	...	...	...	...	...	806

The Rateable Value is £44,108, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £183 15s. 8d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

			M.		F.
Live Births—(Legitimate)	...	...	163	...	141
(Illegitimate)	...	...	10	...	6
Total Live Births	...	...	<hr/>173	...	<hr/> 147

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population is 18.0.

			M.		F.
Still Births—(Legitimate)	...	...	7	...	5
(Illegitimate)	...	...	—	...	—
Total Still Births	...	...	<hr/>7	...	<hr/> 5

The rate of Still Births per 1,000 total (live and still) births 36.14.

Deaths—Total during 1942—170 (Males 95, Females 75).

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 9.58.

The above figure has been corrected for transfers in and out of the district but has not been adjusted to make allowance for the age and sex composition of the population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes ...	...	...	...	...	Nil

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

				M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	7	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	—

Death rates of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	34.37
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	29.60
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	125.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 33. (Males 16, Females 17).

Deaths from Measles (all ages), none.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), none.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years), none.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The birth rate of 18.0 is higher than that for 1941, and the death rate of 9.58 for the current year is slightly higher than that for 1941 (i.e., 9.34).

The Infantile Mortality figure of 34.37 shows a considerable decrease compared with the 1941 figure of 46.98, but the actual numbers involved are so small as to render comparison fallacious.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Dr. C. W. Dixon left the district in April, 1942, to take up an appointment in New Zealand, and Dr. I. M. Cullum was appointed in his place.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SPALDING RURAL
DISTRICT DURING 1942.**

	Cause of Death.					M.	F.	Total.	
	All causes	...	...	...	...	95	75	...	170
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers				...	—	—	...	—
2.	Cerebrospinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System				...	2	4	...	6
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis				...	—	—	...	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	1
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis				—	—	—	...	—
12.	Acute Infectious encephalitis				—	—	—	...	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M) uterus (F)				—	—	1	...	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum				...	3	2	...	5
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	—	3	...	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	13	11	...	24
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions				...	5	8	...	13
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	21	13	...	34
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system				...	2	1	...	3
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	4	...	9
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	3
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum				...	—	—	...	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)				...	—	—	...	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	6	3	...	9
29.	Puerperal and post-abort.: sepsis				...	—	—	...	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
31.	Prematurity	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
32.	Congenital malformations, etc.				...	4	—	...	4
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
34.	Road traffic accidents				...	3	—	...	3
35.	Other violent causes				...	3	2	...	5
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	18	17	...	35

DRAINAGE, SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the services provided in the District. The quantity of tins and other household refuse collected by the salvage lorry continues to give ample evidence of the need for a properly organised refuse collection throughout the District, 322 tons of salvage having been collected during the year.

EVACUATION.

The number of evacuees in the District has decreased during the year. In January the total number of evacuees was 589, and at the 31st December the total number was 302.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Milk Sampling.

From July to December of this year, 34 milk samples have been taken and submitted to the laboratory for examination for the presence of Tubercl Bacilli ; of the 34 samples only one was found to be positive. The cow in question was traced and found to have been slaughtered.

Pasteurisation.

During the year, Messrs. H. Brocklehurst & Son of Highfield Dairy, Gosberton, have established a Pasteurising Plant of the "Holder" type. Milk pasteurised by this process is retained at a temperature of 145° F—150° F for 30 minutes and then immediately cooled to not more than 55° F. This treatment is sufficient to destroy any pathogenic organisms that may be in the milk.

Meat and Food Inspection.

During the year all animals slaughtered for food at the Central Slaughterhouse have been given routine inspections, and animals showing any evidence of disease have been subjected to a detailed examination. During the year, 1,750 Cattle ; 202 Sheep ; 6 Pigs, and 3 Calves were slaughtered and inspected.

The total weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human food during the year is approximately 22 tons 19 cwts., and this has been disposed of for other purposes under the Ministry of Food

Waste Utilisation Scheme. Among the meat and offals condemned were :

Article Inspected.	Disease or Condition Found.
132 Beasts' Livers	Distomatosis (Liver Flukes).
32 Beasts' Livers	Cavernous Angioma.
66 Beasts' Livers	Septic Abscesses.
37 Beasts' Livers	Tuberculosis.
8 Beasts' Livers	Cirrhosis.
2 Beasts' Livers	Fatty Infiltration.
1 Beast's Liver	Bacterial necrosis.
191 Sets of Beasts' Lungs ...	Tuberculosis.
16 Sets of Beasts' Lungs ...	Pneumonia and Pleurisy.
5 Sets of Beasts' Lungs ...	Parasitic Affection.
2 Sets of Beasts' Lungs ...	Hydatid cysts.
2 Sets of Beasts' Lungs ...	Melanosis.
93 Beasts' Heads and Tongues	Tuberculosis.
14 Beasts' Heads and Tongues	Actinomycosis.
11 Beasts' Udders	Mastitis.
3 Beasts' Kidneys	Tuberculosis.
4 Beasts' Hearts	Contaminated by septic material.
8 Beasts' Hearts	Pericarditis.
6 Beasts' Intestines	Tuberculosis.
13 Beasts' Mesenterys	Tuberculosis.
963 lbs. of Beef	Bruised and oedematous.
1084 lbs. of Beef	Putrefaction.
274 lbs. of Beef	Affected by Septic Abscesses.
72 lbs. of Beef	Actinomycosis.
546 lbs. of Corned Beef ...	Blown and damaged tins.
. 1 Hindquarter of Beef ...	Tuberculosis.
4 Forequarters of Beef ...	Tuberculosis.
17 Carcasses of Beef and Offals	Generalised Tuberculosis.
16 Carcasses of Beef and Offals	Casualty animals affected with Acute Septicæmic or Toxæmic conditions, severe bruising or injuries, etc.
2 Carcasses of Beef and Offals	Johnes Diseases.
1 Carcase of Beef and Offals	Generalised Actinomycosis.

Meat and Food Inspection (continued).

1 Carcase of Mutton	and Offals	Slaughtered in moribund condition ; unwholesome carcase.
1 Carcase of Lamb	and Offals	Emaciated and Dropsical.
1 Porker Pig		Acute Fever.
1 Carcase of Pork	and Offals	Septic Peritonitis and Swine Erysipelas.
1 Carcase of Pork	and Offals	Multiple Abscesses.
1 Carcase of Pork	and Offals	Emaciated and Dropsical.
42 lbs. Corned Pork		Putrefying.
107 lbs. Bacon		Commencing Putrefaction.
1 Carcase of Veal	and Offals	Generalised Tuberculosis.

Other foodstuffs condemned were :

Article Inspected.	Disease or Condition Found.
29 tins of meat products, milk, fruit and vegetables.	Condemned for damaged tins, mouldy and putrefying contents.
5 cwts. $1\frac{1}{2}$ stones of Canadian white flour.	Damp, mouldy and unfit.

By means of Central Slaughtering, it has again been possible to carry out 100% inspection which would not have been possible with the present staff if the slaughtering had been spread over the numerous private slaughterhouses in the District. The large quantity of diseased meat condemned gives ample proof of the need for regular and efficient meat inspection.

Certain cases of Tuberculosis in calves and other bovine animals were reported to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with the result that at least two milk cows were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis, were segregated from the milk herds, and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

It has not been possible to make inspections of all these premises, such as bakeries, food shops, etc., and inspections have been restricted to premises where the Sanitary Inspector had reason to

believe conditions were unsatisfactory. In view of the labour shortage and other difficulties, conditions have been found reasonably satisfactory but it has not been practicable to enforce all the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, appertaining to these premises.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year, the number of cases of infectious disease has been generally small.

An effort has been made during the year to immunise all children against Diphtheria, immunisation being performed by private doctors and by the Assistant Medical Officers of the County Council using T.A.F.

From the 1st January to the 31st December, 1942, 236 children under 5 years of age, and 597 between 5 and 15 years of age, were immunised.

At the 31st December, 1942, the estimated percentage of the child population immunised against Diphtheria was :

Under 5 years of age ...	21.5%
Between 5 and 15 years of age ...	66.0%

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease.

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, 195 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

The numbers are shown in the following table :

Disease.	Cases Notified.
Enteric Fever ...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	31
Whooping Cough ...	16
Diphtheria ...	31
Erysipelas ...	3
Smallpox ...	—
Measles ...	101
Pneumonia ...	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1
Total ...	195

It will be noticed that there is an increase in the number of notifications of diphtheria compared with 1941, when 11 cases were notified. This is partly due to the growing practice among the local practitioners of sending suspicious cases to the Isolation Hospital without waiting for the result of the throat swab, a practice worthy of every encouragement.

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases under Age Groups.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.
Under 1 year ...					-				
1 to 2 ...	1	-					2	2	
2 to 3 ...	3	1					6	1	
3 to 4 ...	3	3					2	2	
4 to 5 ...	1	3					3	4	
5 to 10 ...	6	7				1	78	4	
10 to 15 ...	13	5					4		
15 to 20 ...	5	1							
20 to 35 ...	1	9	3						
35 to 45 ...	1	3	1						
45 to 65 ...				3					1
65 and over ...									2
Totals ...	31	31	4	7	1	1	101	16	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

Analysis of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5	1	..	..	..	..	..
5 to 10
10 to 15	1	..	..	..
15 to 20	1	..	..	..	..	..
20 to 25	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
25 to 35 ...	2	3	..	..	..	3	..	..
35 to 45 ...	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45 to 55
55 to 65	1	..	..	..	..	..
Upwards (71)	1	..	..
Totals	...	4	4	3	..	1	5	..

		M.	F.	Total
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register 31.12.42	... . . . .	Pulmonary	... . .	25 12 37
		Non-pulmonary	... . .	42 5 47
Cases of Tuberculosis removed from Register as cured during 1942	... . . . . . . . . . .	Pulmonary	... . .	1 3 4
		Non-pulmonary	... . .	— 1 1
Cases removed from Register, diagnosis not confirmed during 1942	... . . . . . . . . . .	Pulmonary	... . .	— — —
		Non-pulmonary	... . .	— — —
Cases removed from the district		Pulmonary	... . .	— — —
		Non-pulmonary	... . .	— — —

